

CAMDEN HARBOR COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF

OCTOBER 18, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Sandy Welte (left @ 9:30 a.m.), Ben Cashen (left @ 8:50 a.m.) Ray Williamson, Steve Gold (arrived @ 7:45 a.m.), Richard Stetson, Harbormaster Steve Pixley, Town Manger Pat Finnigan, and Asst. Harbormaster Jim Leo.

NON-MEMBERS: Captain Aaron Lincoln, Captain Sean O'Connor, Captain Les Bex, Captain Alan Philbrick, and Mark Seigenthaler.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:30 a.m.

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

No Discussion.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10TH MINUTES:

Ray Williamson motioned to accept minutes as written. Sandy Welte seconded motion. Passed 4-0.

3. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Pixley showed a picture and explained the new hardware installed on the float that connects with the finger floats. He updated committee on release of three (3) transient mooring sites of P. G. Willey and Jim Sharp's inner harbor float. Pixley shared a letter written to Georgiana McCabe in reference to a ramp/float placed at her property and found that the standard requirements have been met.

USAGE OF PUBLIC LANDING (not a scheduled agenda item/committee agreed to discuss as no vote):

Much discussion and concerns were made from the attending non-members concerning this subject. Basically, the concerns were that the boats who are using the Public Landing facilities as a business for drop off/pick up of passengers should be required show the same documents that the boat operators from the landing with a lease agreement are required by the Town to have (insurance, documentation of boat, captain's license, etc.). If the operators are not charged a fee for public landing use than the feeling is the documents are needed for liability and most of all safety reasons. It is felt that Camden does not need negative publicity or unsafe operation of commercial boaters in the harbor. Captain Les Bex & Captain Philbrick feel a fee should be charged for the use of the landing because they are paying fees for their usage and it does not seem fair that commercial boats can

advertise their services from Camden and not pay a fee when they do. Captain Aaron Lincoln was more concerned with commercial boaters using the float he leases without permission or paying a fee. The floats seem are used during the off-season and occasionally during the peak season. Chairman McKeever felt that the commercial boaters with a lease agreement with the Town have a set schedule and are guaranteed float use; however, other commercial boaters do not have that guarantee. Ray Williamson feels that the use is for the public and does not see an issue with the usage. Captain Lincoln mentioned that he would like to discuss a schedule change for Daysailers due to time restraints between trips. Captain Lincoln also feels that if other commercial boaters are allowed to use the floats that are leased than the boaters who pay for the leased floats should be able to use the other ones within the harbor, also. Mark Seigenthaler said that if a commercial boater is advertising in brochures, etc., operating off Camden docks than they are a business versus a boater who occasionally uses the docks and they should be paying a fee, and providing the same documents as is required by the boaters who have a lease agreement with the Town. Steve Gold feels if you use the Public Landing for commercial purposes during the summer season you should be charged a fee, however, during the winter season floats should be used to keep a community feeling with no fees. It was decided that work group meeting would be scheduled for Thursday, October 25th @ 7:30 a.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room.

4. TOWN DREDGE:

Harbormaster Pixley updated the committee on the dredging project planned and said there is a couple of weeks delay and a increase permit fee due to a previous permit had indicated a onetime dredge and therefore needed to be updated. Originally, had thought the previous 10-year permit would cover any dredging in the ten-year period, however, the wording did not. Instead of beginning the dredge the 1st of November, it will be a couple of weeks later.

5. GANGWAY & FLOAT IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

Harbormaster Pixley told committee that Art Tibbett's has begun to install pilings.

6. DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN:

No Discussion.

7. PARKING AT PUBLIC LANDING:

Harbormaster Pixley suggested signage concerning parking at the landing. Town Manager Finnigan said the Select Board has a committee working on parking issues. Assistant Harbormaster Jim Leo questioned weekend parking as there is no enforcement during this time and people will park there for the weekend and go out sailing. He feels it should be enforced the same as during the week.

8. INNER HARBOR WAIT LIST:

Harbormaster Pixley spoke to Army Corps of Engineers concerning a suggestion that a person who releases their Inner Harbor Float due to non-usage be able to have their name put on the waiting list and go to the top of the list. This way if the person felt that they could be eligible for a float space in the future when they may need it they are considered without going to the bottom of the list. Pixley said he was told that it was entirely a local issue. The working committee will discuss this at the October 25th working group meeting.

9. NEW INNER HARBOR FLOAT(S):

The temporary float has been installed and works well at the location. Harbormaster Pixley will speak to surrounding float holders to make sure they can maneuver around before permanently placing and assigning next season.

10. BUDGET (FEES):

The FY14 budget item lines were reviewed and discussed line by line. After discussion concerning dumpster, use at Public Landing and where the appropriation of harbormaster's salary should be allocated from the committee continued on to the harbor fees for FY13. The harbor fees suggested by the Harbormaster were revised with the following changes: The resident finger float rate from \$500 to \$475 and a typo correction on the dockage over 70' to be \$4.50 per foot. Ray Williamson suggested the dockage revenues be categorized by the lengths rather than a lump sum total and the committee agreed with him. **Ray Williamson motioned to approve and recommend to the Select Board the FY13 Harbor Fees and the FY14 Harbor Budget with the corrections made for approval. Richard Stetson seconded motion. Passed 4-0.**

The committee will discuss the Harbor Capital Reserve Plan at another time.

The meeting adjourned @ 10:30 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for November 8th @ 7:30 a.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Libby
Harbor Clerk